The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first frictional resistance generating portion;

a second frictional resistance generating portion generating a frictional resistance larger than that generated by said first frictional resistance generating portion;

a first frictional resistance suppressing portion having a first rotating-direction space to prevent operation of both of said first and second frictional resistance generating portions; and

a second frictional resistance suppressing portion having a second rotating-direction space to prevent operation of only said second frictional resistance generating portion on opposite sides of a torsion angle range of said first rotating-direction space.

14. (Currently Amended) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by

torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first frictional resistance generating portion being inoperable in a first torsion angle range and operable in second torsion angle ranges provided on opposite sides of said first torsion angle range~~, respectively~~; and

a second frictional resistance generating portion being inoperable in said first and second torsion angle ranges and operable on opposite sides of said second torsion angle ranges

said first torsion angle range being located in any angle range of the two relatively rotatable members, and being defined by application of torsional vibrations.

15. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a large frictional resistance generating mechanism being configured to generate a large frictional resistance;

a large frictional resistance generation suppressing mechanism having a rotating-direction space to prevent operation of said large frictional resistance generating mechanism; and

a small frictional resistance generating mechanism being configured to generate a frictional resistance being smaller than said large frictional resistance generated by said large frictional resistance generating mechanism on opposite sides of said rotating-direction space.

16. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first friction portion having,

a first hysteresis torque generating portion being configured to generate a first hysteresis torque, and

a first rotating-direction space arranged to operate in series with respect to said first hysteresis torque generating portion in a rotating direction; and

a second friction portion arranged in said rotating direction and between said first hysteresis torque generating portion and said first rotating-direction space having

a second hysteresis torque generating portion generating a second hysteresis torque smaller than said first hysteresis torque, and

a second rotating-direction space being arranged to operate in series with respect to said second hysteresis torque generating portion in said rotating direction.

17. (Currently Amended) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by

torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first friction generating portion;

a second friction generating portion arranged to operate in parallel with said first friction generating portion in the rotating direction;

a first rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said first friction generating portion in an initial stage of a torsion angle, said torsion angle being located in any angle range of the two relatively rotatable members, and being defined by application of torsional vibrations; and

a second rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said second friction generating portion up to a predetermined torsion angle when said first friction generating portion is operating.

18. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

first, second, and third friction generating portions arranged to operate in parallel with each other in a rotating direction between said first and second rotary members;

a first rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said first friction generating portion in an initial stage of a torsion angle;

a second rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said second friction generating portion up to a predetermined torsion angle when said first friction generating portion is operating; and

a third rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said third friction generating portion up to a predetermined torsion angle when said second friction generating portion is operating.

19. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a plurality of friction generating portions being arranged between said first and second rotary members to operate in parallel with each other in the rotating direction; and

a plurality of rotating-direction space forming portions being configured to delay operation of said plurality of friction portions enabling said respective friction portions to start operating successively.

20. (Currently Amended) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a large friction generating portion; and an intermediate friction generating portion generating an intermediate frictional resistance smaller than a frictional resistance generated by said large frictional resistance generating portion before said large friction generating portion starts operating, said intermediate friction generating portion being configured to operate at any angle range of the two relatively rotatable members, and commencement of operation of said intermediate friction generating portion being defined by application of torsional vibrations.

30. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first rotary member;

a second rotary member being rotatable relatively to said first rotary member;

a first intermediate member engaging with said first rotary member via a first rotating-direction space; and

a second intermediate member cooperating with said first intermediate member to form an engagement portion engaging with said first intermediate member via a second rotating-direction space, cooperating with said first intermediate member to form a first frictional resistance generating portion slidably and frictionally engaging in a rotating direction with said first intermediate member, and cooperating with said second rotary member to form a second frictional resistance generating portion slidably and frictionally engaging in said rotating direction with said second rotary member to generate a frictional resistance larger than a frictional resistance generated by said first frictional resistance generating portion.

31. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 30, wherein

said first rotating-direction space is larger than said second rotating-direction space.

32. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 31, wherein

said first and second intermediate members are disk-shaped members axially overlapping and being in contact with each other.

33. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 32, wherein

said second intermediate member is formed of a pair of members each being in contact with one of axially opposite sides of said first intermediate member, and

each of said pair of members cooperates with said first intermediate member to form said first frictional resistance generating portion therebetween, and cooperates with said second rotary member to form said second frictional resistance generating portion therebetween.

34. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 33, wherein

said first rotating-direction space is radially positioned in an area including axially overlapping portions of said first and second intermediate members.

35. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 34, wherein

said first rotary member has a disk-shaped portion axially overlapping said first intermediate member, and

said first rotating-direction space is formed between said first intermediate member and said disk-shaped portion of said first rotary member.

36. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 35, wherein

one of said first intermediate member and said disk-shaped portion of said first rotary member is provided with a space extending in the rotating direction, and the other is provided with a projected portion extending axially through said space to form said first rotating-direction space.

37. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 36, wherein

said space is formed in said disk-shaped portion of said first rotary member,

said first intermediate member is formed of a pair of members arranged on axially opposite sides of said disk-shaped portion, respectively, and

one of said pair of members has said projected portion, and is unrotatably engaged with the other of said pair of member via said projected portion.

38. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 30, wherein

said first and second intermediate members are disk-shaped members axially overlapping and being in contact with each other.

39. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 38, wherein

said second intermediate member is formed of a pair of members each being in contact with one of axially opposite sides of said first intermediate member, and

each of said pair of members cooperates with said first intermediate member to form said first frictional resistance generating portion therebetween, and cooperates with said second rotary member to form said second frictional resistance generating portion therebetween.

40. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 38, wherein

said first rotating-direction space is radially positioned in an area including axially overlapping portions of said first and second intermediate members.

41. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 40, wherein

said first rotary member has a disk-shaped portion axially overlapping said first intermediate member, and said first rotating-direction space is formed between said first intermediate member and said disk-shaped portion of said first rotary member.

42. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 41, wherein

one of said first intermediate member and said disk-shaped portion of said first rotary member is provided with a space extending in the rotating direction, and the other is provided with a projected portion extending axially through said space to form said first rotating-direction space.

43. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 42, wherein

said space is formed in said disk-shaped portion of said first rotary member,

said first intermediate member is formed of a pair of members arranged on axially opposite sides of said disk-shaped portion, respectively, and

one of said pair of members has said projected portion, and is unrotatably engaged with the other of said pair of member via said projected portion.

44. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first rotary member;

a second rotary member being rotatable relatively to said first rotary member;

a first intermediate member engaging with said first rotary member via a space in the first rotating-direction, and cooperating with said second rotary member to form a first friction generating portion therebetween; and

a second intermediate member being arranged between said first and second rotary members to operate with respect to said first intermediate member in a rotating direction such that an end of said second intermediate member and an end of said first intermediate member exert forces on each other, engaging with said first intermediate member via a second space in the rotating-direction, and cooperating with said second rotary member to form a second friction generating portion therebetween.

45. (Withdrawn) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 44, further comprising:

a third intermediate member arranged between said first and second rotary members to operate with respect to said first and second intermediate members in the rotating direction such that an end of said third intermediate member and an end of said first and second intermediate members exert forces on each other, engaging with said second intermediate member via a third rotating-direction space, and cooperating with said second rotary member to form a third friction generating portion.

46. (Withdrawn) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional

vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first rotary member;

a second rotary member being rotatable relatively to said first rotary member; and

a plurality of friction members arranged in a rotating direction between said first and second rotary members, each frictionally engaging with said second rotary member, and engaging with each other in the rotating direction via a rotating-direction space such that an end of one exerts force on an end of the other.

47. (New) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 14, wherein

said first and second frictional resistance generating portions are arranged at a common radial position relative to the two relatively rotatable members.

48. (New) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 17, wherein

said first and second friction generating portions are arranged at a common radial position relative to the two relatively rotatable members.

49. (New) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 20, wherein

said intermediate and large friction generating portions are arranged at a common radial position relative to the two relatively rotatable members.